

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 DPW-01 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /066 W  
-----113713 012249Z /72

R 011010Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9057  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3188

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK INFO AMEMBASSY  
VIENTIANE DATED JAN 31 REPEATED FOR URINFO:

QUOTE  
C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 017

PLEASE PASS TO JCRC REP LTC PAUL MATHER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM PGOV TH LA  
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF RELEASED THAI DETAINEE REGARDING  
MIA'S IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 0104

1. CONREP TRAVELLED TO NONG KHAI PROVINCIAL CAPITAL  
JANUARY 27 WHERE HE INTERVIEWED THAI CIVILIAN MR YIAM  
THAEWYU, AN EMBASSY VIENTIANE EMPLOYEE RELEASED BY LPDR  
AUTHORITIES TO THAI IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS JANUARY 24  
AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF DETENTION IN LPDR PRISON.

2. MR YIAM, WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED AS AN ELECTRICIAN, TOLD  
CONREP THAT LPDR OFICIALS ARRESTED HIM MARCH 1, 1976  
ON CHARGE OF BEING AN AMERICAN SPY. FOLLOWING TWO

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WEEKS INCARCERATION IN SOM KAE PRISON, OUTSIDE OF VIENTIANE,  
HE WAS FLOWN TO PHONG SALY PROVINCE WHERE HE WAS PLACED  
IN BAN NAM PAW PRISON, MUANG BUN NEUA, IN THE VICINITY  
OF COORDINATES RD0095.

3. HE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE 280 INMATES AT NAM PAW

PRISON DURING HIS 14 MONTHS OF CONFINEMENT THERE, INCLUDING SIX THAIS (INCLUDING YIAM), TWO CHINESE, ONE CAMBODIAN, AND TEN VIETNAMESE. REMAINDER WAS MADE UP OF LAO NATIONALS ASSOCIATED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. MR YIAM STATED THAT ALL PRISONERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN VIENTIANE.

4. MR YIAM SAID THAT IN MID-JUNE 1977 HE WAS TRANSFERRED BY HELICOPTER TO SAM KHE PRISON FOLLOWING A ONE DAY STOPOVER IN LUANG PRABANG PRISON ENROUTE. HE STATED THAT HE REMAINED AT SAM KHE UNTIL HIS RELEASE LAST WEEK ALONG WITH THIRTEEN OTHER THAI CIVILIANS TO NONG KHAI OFFICIALS.

5. YIAM INDICATED THAT PRISON CONDITIONS HE EXPERIENCED IN LAOS WERE QUITE DIFFICULT. HE REFERRED TO ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR PRISONERS. HE SAID THAT HE DROPPED THIRTY KILOS IN WEIGHT DURING HIS CONFINEMENT. CINREP SAID THAT MOST OF YIAM'S UPPER TEETH HAVE ROTTED AWAY.

6. YIAM STATED THAT HE HEARD OR SAW NOTHING DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT REGARDING AMERICAN PRISONERS OR BODILY REMAINS OF AMERICANS IN LAOS. HE NOTED THAT DURING HIS CONFINEMENT IN SAM KHE LAST YEAR HE HAS HEARD A REPORT FROM FELLOW PRISONERS THAT AN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WAS ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING DETAINED THERE.

7. CONREP REPORTS THAT YIAM, WHO IS FIFTY YEARS OLD AND HAS BEEN AN EMPLOYEE OF US AGENCIES IN VIENTIANE SINCE 1961, WAS FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE DURING INTERVIEW. CONREP ATTEMPTED TO INTERVIEW FIVE OTHER THAI DETAINEES, RELEASED ALONG WITH YIAM, WHO HAD BEEN FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY US MISSION IN VIENTIANE BUT THEY HAD ALREADY DEPARTED NONG KHAI FOR THEIR HOMES OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE. UNFORTUNATELY, CONREP HAD BEEN UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO NONG KHAI PRIOR TO JANUARY 27 BECAUSE HE WAS TRAVELLING WITH CONSUL ELSEWHERE IN REGION. FINNEY. UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 01 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Type:** TE  
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